

Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey today announced that the Prospect Terrace Fire Department, Inc. has been awarded a \$94,810 federal grant to purchase new firefighting and emergency equipment. The funds come from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), which is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration (USFA).

"These federal funds will provide much-needed equipment for the dedicated firefighters in the Prospect Terrace Fire Department," Hinchey said. "This new equipment will help keep our firefighters safe as they protect the public from fires and other emergencies. Additionally, this federal grant spares local taxpayers the cost of this much-needed equipment."

The funds awarded to the Prospect Terrace Fire Department will help purchase 30 sets of personal protective equipment, 30 pagers, thermo-imaging equipment, and extraction tools -- also known as the jaws of life -- for highway accidents. This equipment will help the department respond to emergencies more efficiently and with upgraded safety.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has worked to secure full funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, since its inception in 2001. Since the fire grant program started, more than \$14 million in grants have been awarded to fire and emergency departments in Hinchey's congressional district.

The congressman has sponsored a number of workshops across his Congressional district to help fire departments successfully navigate the grant application process. Hinchey is also the author of the SERVE (Supporting Emergency Responders' Volunteer Efforts) Act, which would provide a \$1,000 federal tax credit to individuals who are active members of volunteer firefighting and EMS organizations.